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ON THE WEB

## F.A.A. Limits Access to Plane Information

*By Associated Press*

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The Federal Aviation Administration announced rules today restricting information about a plane's whereabouts. The rules were prompted by Representative Tom DeLay's effort to track down a Texas lawmaker who left the state to avoid voting on a Republican redistricting plan.

Announced at a House Transportation Committee hearing, the rules would forbid employees of the agency from revealing the position of a plane unless the request is for an official government purpose or for safety or efficiency reasons. A law enforcement agency can also make such a request as part of an investigation, under the new rules.

The office of Mr. DeLay, the House majority leader, called the F.A.A. on May 12 to find the plane of State Representative James E. Laney, a Texas state legislator who joined other state Democrats in Ardmore, Okla. The lawmakers stayed in Oklahoma four days to prevent a vote in the Texas Legislature on the redistricting bill.

A report from the inspector general of the Department of Transportation found that Mr. DeLay's request set off an eight-hour search involving at least 13 F.A.A. employees. "I think there was some waste," the inspector general, Kenneth Mead, told the House committee.

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